

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FMC-04

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CG-00 COA-02 DLOS-06 OMB-01

TRSE-00 FEA-02 SCI-06 AGR-20 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01

SPC-03 INT-08 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-20 FPC-01 DRC-01 /159 R

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P 241739Z JAN 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, UR

SUBJECT: RENEWED SOVIET COMPLAINTS OF BUNKERING PROBLEMS
IN US PORTS

REF: MOSCOW 1103

1. IN REGARD TO THE VESSELS CITED BY AVERIN IN HIS LETTER,
THE DEPARTMENT AND THE US MARITIME ADMINISTRATION (DEPT OF
COMMERCE) REPORT THE FOLLOWING:

A) ATENA ZAFIRAKIS - APPROPRIATE USG AUTHORITIES HAVE
ARRANGED FOR FULL FUEL REQUIREMENTS THROUGH EXXON IN NEW
ORLEANS.

- B) VANCOUVER TRADER - SAILED HOUSTON JANUARY 20
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AGENT REPORTS NO UNUSUAL DELAYS DUE TO BUNKERS.

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C) OLYMPIC PRESTIGE - SAILED JANUARY 23 (AM) FROM NEW ORLEANS TO FIRST MED PORT FOR BUNKERS. NO UNUSUAL DELAYS. VESSEL'S REPS DID NOT REQUEST USG ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING BUNKERS IN NEW ORLEANS.

2. EMBASSY MAY AGAIN EMPHASIZE TO AVERIN THAT THE USG HAS PROMULGATED AND IS ENFORCING A NON-DISCRIMINATORY ALLOCATION PROGRAM (IN REGARD TO FLAG OF REGISTRY) AND EXPECTS SIMILAR TREATMENT BY SOVIET AUTHORITIES. UNDER USG REGULATIONS, RECIPROCITY MEANS APPLICATION OF NATIONAL NON-DISCRIMINATORY ALLOCATION POLICIES BY EACH NATION ON A RECIPROCAL BASIS. MUTUAL NON-DISCRIMINATORY ALLOCATION PROGRAMS DO NOT REPEAT NOT EMBRACE RECIPROCITY INTERPRETATION OF MEANING THE ALLOCATION IN COUNTRY "A" OF AN EQUAL NUMBER OF TONS OR BARRELS FOR COUNTRY "B" VESSELS. SO LONG AS AN EQUAL QUANTITY OF FUEL IS DELIVERED TO COUNTRY "A" VESSELS IN COUNTRY "B" PORTS. EMBASSY MAY ALSO INFORM AVERIN THAT THE UNITED STATES IS NOT REPEAT NOT PREPARED TO FORMALIZE AN AGREEMENT SUPPORTING THE PRINCIPLE OF RECIPROCITY IN QUESTIONS OF BUNKERING IN ANY BILATERAL DOCUMENT. WE ARE NOT DOING SO WITH ANY COUNTRY. WE BELIEVE IT IS SUFFICIENT THAT THE AUTHORITIES OF OUR TWO NATIONS MUTUALLY SUPPORT AND EXECUTE THE PRINCIPLE OF NON-DISCRIMINATORY ALLOCATION, AND DO ALL IN THEIR POWER, IN PRINCIPLE AND ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS, TO SEE TO IT THAT THE VESSELS OF THE OTHER ARE TREATED NO WORSE (OR NO BETTER) IN OBTAINING SUFFICIENT BUNKERS THAN THEIR OWN VESSELS OR VESSELS FLYING OTHER FOREIGN FLAGS.

3. DEPARTMENT AGREES WITH EMBASSY'S COMMENT PARA 3 REFTEL AND RECOMMENDS THAT IN COMMUNICATIONS WITH MIN MERCHANT FLEET, POINT OUT THAT "100 PERCENT OF REQUIREMENTS" DOES NOT ACT AS A GUARANTEE, BUT RATHER AS AN ELIGIBILITY CEILING. KISSINGER

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